Manga Syndrome

Zodiac Game

by Shinjirou

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SPECIAL THANX TO
Murasaki
FOR HELPING WITH THE TRANSLATION. ^_^

Chapter 04
Enemies & Allies

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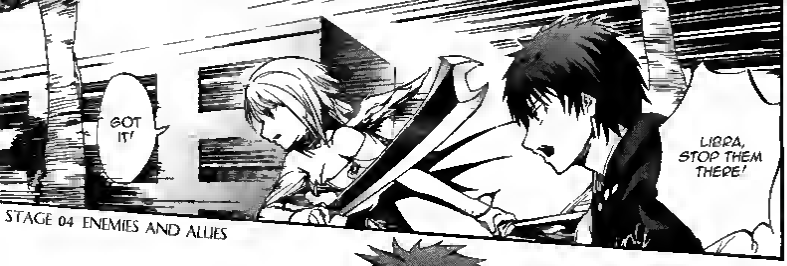


STAGE04: 敵と味方 (ステージ できとみかた)

HIS OPPONENT IS ME!
GET OUTTA THE WAY!
HOW COULD YOU SAY SUCH A THING WHEN YOU'RE WOUNDED SO BADLY BY NOW AND CAN EVEN BE TAKEN DOWN ANY TIME!
HMPH
I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE INSTRUCTIONS FROM YOU!
I AM HERE BY MY MASTER'S ORDERS

YEAH PLEASE STAY WITH ME FOR A LITTLE LONGER
ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE?
HEY NANGOU
.....
GOT IT.

DID I GET HIM?
HUH?
UGH...
I'M AN IDIOT FOR CHALLENGING SUCH A DANGEROUS GUY WITHOUT THINKING WHAT AM I DOING?!

HA!
HAHA
HAHA
HA!
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO STARTED IT ALL, WEREN'T YOU?
STOP THINKING OF FIGHTING AGAINST YOUR FELLOW PLAYERS. JUST DRIVE AWAY THE ZODIAC RIGHT NOW!
A... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH
YOU ARE AN INTERESTIN' FELLA!
BY THE WAY, YOUNG LADY OVER THERE. INTERESTED IN WORKIN' FOR ME?
HIYAA HAHA HA!!!
HAHA HAHAHA!
WH WHAT?
HEY!
NO WAY! I'M NEVER GOING TO WORK FOR YOU!
AH, YOU'RE FLAT-CHESTED BUT THERE ARE A LOT WHO GO FOR YOUR TYPE
YOU GOT A PRETTY FACE. YOU COULD SURE EARN A LOT. HOW ABOUT IT?

DAMN, WHAT IS HE THINKING? I CAN'T READ HIM AT ALL
SO,
ARE YOU MOVING ASIDE OR AREN'T YOU? WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?
WELL, TOO BAD
TAKE YOUR TIME. ALL I WANT IS TO WATCH THE ZODIACS' BATTLE FOR A LITTLE LONGER
JUST A LITTLE MORE...

!!
THIS ONE— HOW CAN HE DO THIS TO MY SAKIGAMA WITH JUST ONE SWING?
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK THAT A CHUNK OF SPOILED MEAT LIKE YOU CAN BEAT MY SWORD?
I WANT YOU TO STOP TAKING US LIGHTLY!

THEY'RE FAST THEY'RE KEEPING IN STEP WITH US
TCH
HOW ANNOYING
!!

I TOLD YOU IT'S USELESS!
COMPRESSION DEPTH CHARGE
WHAT?
THAT MOVE IS NOTHING UNLESS IT HITS ME!

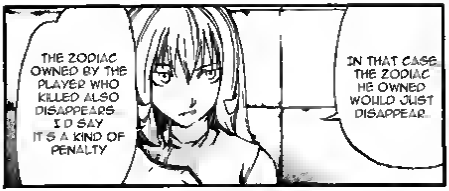
OH NO... DID I GET DRAWN IN?!
KYAA
UWAA WHAT?!

LIBRAAA!!!

GOT IT.
HE'S A SELFISH ONE, AS USUAL.
LET'S LEAVE, CAPRICORN
WELL NOW, I GOT NOTHING MORE TO DO HERE
I'M NANJOU.
WELL, IF YOU GET THROUGH THIS,
I WILL MEET YOU AGAIN, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT
WAIT A MINUTE!
DOING AS YOU PLEASE
YOU ALL BETTER FOLLOW THE RULES, ALL RIGHT?
SEE YA!
DON'T GET CAUGHT OFFGUARD BY OTHER PLAYERS! DO YOUR BEST TO BE VERY CAREFUL
HEY! WE'RE NOT...
UH...
...ANYWAY, SHOULDN'T WE BE LEAVING NOW TOO?

N... NOW THAT WE HAVE COME THIS FAR WE SHOULD BE SAFE, I GUESS
LIBRA, YOU ALL RIGHT?
THIS ONE'S NOTHING
LOOK WHO'S TALKING YOU'RE IN SUCH BAD SHAPE. DO YOU HONESTLY THINK THAT YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR MASTER LIKE THAT?
IF I HADN'T GOTTEN HERE YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN SKEWERED AND DISPELLED BY NOW
HAH! YOU'RE BLUFFING AREN'T YA? HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT WHEN YOU CAN BARELY STAND STILL NOW!
NOW NOW THAT'S ENOUGH!
I GIVE UP ARE ALL OF YOU ZODIAC THIS AGGRESSIVE?
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT? WELL LIBRA, YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY MORE COMPETITIVE THAN I THOUGHT...
ANYWAY, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY'S QUEST
I SEE. NO BY THE WAY,
"DON'T BE CAUGHT OFFGUARD BY OTHER PLAYERS" DO YOUR BEST TO BE VERY CAREFUL "
THOSE WERE THE LAST WORDS NANJOU SAID!

"IF THE PLAYER CAPTURES THE ZODIAC WITHIN 15 MINUTES THE PLAYER CAN THEN BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE ZODIAC."
AROUND HERE I GUESS
RULES ABOUT THE ZODIAC
"IN CASE A ZODIAC OWNED BY A PLAYER DIES IT IS FORCED TO BECOME A KONPAKUTAI."
THAT MAN WAS TOTALLY RIGHT
CONFIRM THE RULES AGAIN IN THE GUIDEBOOK IT'S NEAR "RULES ABOUT THE ZODIAC"
THE ZODIAC CAN HAVE ANY OF THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE FOUR NATURAL ELEMENTS EARTH WIND WATER OR FIRE ONCE YOU CAPTURE A SECOND ZODIAC IT SHOULD HAVE THE SAME ATTRIBUTE AS THAT OF THE FIRST
ALSO WHEN YOU OWN TWO ZODIACS AT THE SAME TIME YOU WILL HAVE CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS
THEY'RE LIKE DISEMBODIED SOULS THEY CANNOT MOVE NOR COMMUNICATE SO BE CAREFUL
WOUNDED ZODIAC TAKE THE FORM OF KONPAKUTAI WHEN THEY ARE FORCIBLY DISPELLED
I MIGHT AS WELL KILL YOU HERE, BUT...
I SEE...
FOR INSTANCE I WOULD BE THE "WIND"
ARIES WOULD BE "FIRE"
CAPRICORN WHICH NANJOU OWNS, WOULD BE "WIND" JUST LIKE ME
SO THAT WAS WHY
WHAT HE DID BACK THERE DIRECTLY BENEFITED ME


THE ZODIAC OWNED BY THE PLAYER WHO KILLED ALSO DISAPPEARS I'D SAY IT'S A KIND OF PENALTY
IN THAT CASE THE ZODIAC HE OWNED WOULD JUST DISAPPEAR.

AH!
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PLAYER GETS KILLED AFTER HE DISPELS A ZODIAC?

THAT MEANS WHEN THE RITE ENDS THE RISK OF GETTING ATTACKED IS LOW.
UNLESS A PLAYER HAS MADE ENEMIES SOMEWHERE BEFORE

BUT— WHAT ON EARTH DOES THAT PERSON WANT, THEN?
UM...
ANYWAY, IT'S NOT JUST THE WANDERERS, BUT EVEN PLAYERS, WHO ARE HUMANS, CAN TURN INTO ENEMIES DAMN SERIOUSLY?
WELL, WE HAVE TO READ THE GUIDEBOOK PROPERLY JUST IN CASE

W-WE H. VEN'T INTRODUCED OURSELVES TO E ICH OTHER YET.
I... I'M SUI TAKANASHI.

THAT WAS CARELESS.
YEAH, NO PROB.

TH-THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME.

AH, AFTER EXCHANGING NAMES COMES THIS
SUIJIRU KOIWA
AH, WELL THEN, YOU CAN CALL ME SUI
AH, OUR NAMES HUH I'M SUIJIRU KOIWA
SUIJIRU IS FINE
M, M-MY MOBILE NUMBER AND EMAIL ADDRESS
W, W-WELL, I'M TELLING YOU THESE JUST BECAUSE I THINK IT'D BE SAFER IF WE MOVED TOGETHER
A, A-AND THERE'S NOTHING MORE THAN THAT, REALLY!
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "NOTHING MORE THAN THAT?"

NANJOU
JUST CALL WHEN THERE'S A FIGHT, WILL YA!
THAT'S WHAT WE'VE TEAMED UP FOR, ISN'T IT?
PREPARATIONS FOR THE PARTY TAKE TIME
TAKE IT EASY
I WILL CALL YOU NEXT TIME

AND THEN I TOTALLY FAINTED IN AGONY
HAHAHA IT'S FUNNY HOW YOU TWO GOT INVOLVED IN IT
.....
5/19 (Mon) 12:00 NN
Meiryou High School
YOU TOLD ME ABOUT THE GUNFIRE INCIDENT AT THE STATION THE OTHER DAY REMEMBER?
SAY, HATAYAMA IT'S TOTALLY OFF-TOPIC BUT
HM?
YEAH
YOU SAID THAT TIME THAT THERE WERE NO VICTIMS... RIGHT?
SO DID I MISHEAR IT, THEN?
BUT I'M SURE THAT AT THAT TIME...
WHAT...?
HUH? DID I SAY THAT?
THERE WERE ONE DEAD
AND 97 INJURED, RIGHT?

YUUSUKE...?
!!
SUSUKU WE NEED TO TALK
GO WITH ME FOR A BIT
HEY, YUUSUKE! CALM DOWN. WHAT'S THE MATTER??
COME ON!
WAIT, DON'T EAT MY FOOD!
YUP!
HE-Y! CAN I EAT THIS NOW?
DO AS YOU WISH!

Uoh!
BEING DRAGGED LIKE THIS, WHAT'S GOING ON?
THAT'S... A GUIDEBOOK!
YUUSUKE, YOU ARE A PLAYER, TOO!
HERE
YOU DO HAVE ONE, TOO, DON'T YOU?

.....
I KNEW IT SUZUKI SO ARE YOU.
I DIDN'T REMEMBER THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT NOR ANYTHING FROM THE WHOLE WEEK
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL IT SEEMS LIKE YOU LOST YOUR MEMORY TOO JUDGING FROM THE WAY YOU LOOKED WHEN YOU HEARD ABOUT THE INCIDENT.
I CLEARLY HEARD HATAYAMA SAY THAT TIME THAT "THERE WERE NO VICTIMS."
ADD TO THAT "ONE VICTIM" THIS TIME
RIGHT UNTIL HATAYAMA MENTIONED IT I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT THE INCIDENT NOR DID I KNOW THAT IT HAD BEEN A WEEK SINCE IT OCCURRED
WE'RE NOT MISTAKEN.
THEN IT MEANS THAT THE FACTS HAVE BEEN COVERED UP

ZODIAC GAME 1

I WAS ALSO TOLD THE SAME THING
THAT THE REALITY OF THE PLAYER'S DEATH IS WITHHELD HERE
BY THE WAY MY ZODIAC ALSO SAID
AN ALTERED REALITY IF YOU THINK ABOUT THE RITES, IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE AT ALL
IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE
IF THE PLAYERS ARE THE FATALITIES OF THE INCIDENT AND IF THE ALTERED NUMBER OF FATALITIES SHOWS THE NUMBER OF THE DEAD PLAYERS, THEN
HONESTLY SPEAKING, I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I'M DEAD.
AT LEAST THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE INCIDENT HAS A LOT TO DO WITH THE RITE
OF COURSE THERE'S NO PROOF. IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE NUMBER OF THE DEAD IS ALSO THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS IN THE RITE
BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY COINCIDENCES

3:00 PM
Fujimachi Girls' Academy
Senior High School
YESTERDAY'S RITE WAS HARSH...
...AND I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD THIS MORNING
.....
KANA
YESTERDAY

Y-
YE-YE-YEEES!
TAKANASHI!
SU! THE TEACHER IS CALLING YOU!
AH, HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG SU!?
YOU'RE ALWAYS AN IDIOT BUT YOU'RE KINDA STRANGE TODAY
UGH~

WAAAH!
WHO'S IT FROM? WHO'S IT FROM?
OH, I GOT AN EMAIL.
IT'S FROM SUGURU... LET'S SEE... "I FOUND A NEW PLAYER, SO I'LL INTRODUCE HIM TO YOU THIS ONE CAN BE TRUSTED, SO THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY LET'S MEET TODAY AT
I-IT'S...
IT'S FROM A GUY!!!
SENDER SUGURU KOIWA.
HEY, EVERYONE! BIG NEWS! IT WILL SHOCK ALL OF AMERICA!
REALLY?
NOWAY!
SURPRISINGLY, SUI, THE MAN-HATER HAS GOTTEN A BOYFRIEND!!!
SUI-OMG!?
WAI-, NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL!
KEI!!!

Four days before the first day of the rite
Inogashira Park
HERE YOU ARE, AT LAST
DID I MAKE YOU WAIT? SORRY 'BOUT THAT
I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU... BUT THERE IS ONE MORE PLAYER I MET HER YESTERDAY
THE RITE WILL START SOON

IT'S TIME
PISCES...
THIS IS MY ZODIAC, PISCES

WHAT...!
...KILL HIM!
ALL RIGHT, NOW. THIS IS AN ORDER, PISCES.
THIS PLAYER...
UNDERSTOOD.
UGH...
YUUSUKE! WHAT IS GOING ON?

I'M TELLING YOU.
I AM SERIOUS.
EVEN YUUSUKE HAS BECOME MY ENEMY.
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? WHAT- IS HAPPENING?!